GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:183
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
SETTLEMENT OF ADIVASIS AND SCHEDULED TRIBES ON FORESTS LAND
Moghe Shri Krishna Murari

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the proposal to settle Adivasis and Scheduled Tribes on forest lands in Madhya Pradesh were submitted to the Union Government;

(b) the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of cases still pending and the time by which the said settlement work is likely to be completed; and

(d) the number of schemes of Madhya Pradesh pending with the Union Government under the Forest Conservation Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c) No proposal has been submitted by Government of Madhya Pradesh to settle Adivasis and Scheduled Tribes on forest lands. Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted proposals only for regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments on forest lands and conversion of 925 forest villages into revenue villages. Accordingly, Central Government has already regularized pre-1980 eligible encroachments over 2.25 lakh hectare of forest lands. In so far as conversion of 925 forest villages is concerned, 315 forest villages located in 11 Districts viz. Khargone, Dewas, Rajgarh, Guna, Sidhi, Vidisha, Badwani, Dindori, Chhindwada, Raisen & Obedullah Ganj and Sagar, have already been converted into revenue villages under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. About 80% of the beneficiaries of regularized encroachments and converted villages belong to Scheduled Tribes. The process of conversion of forest villages, is held up due to the Supreme Court`s order dated: 13-11-2000 whereby the Apex Court has banned dereservation of forests/national parks/sanctuaries.

(d) As per available information, 12 proposals received from Madhya Pradesh for forestry clearance, are under various stages of examination in the Ministry. The project proposals involving non-forestry use of forest lands, are examined according to the procedure prescribed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003, and the guidelines issued from time to time thereunder. The whole examination and the decision on the proposal is a continuous process, for which Central Government has prescribed a time limit of 60 days for itself for processing and taking decision on the complete proposal, under the Rules.